

Nonfiction: **prose that explains ideas or tells about real people, etc. - must be true**

Diction: **author's choice of words, esp. vocab, formal vs. informal**

Words chosen tell about:

- a) **the actual experience**
- b) **personality of writer**
- c) **personal beliefs or prejudices**
- d) **background of writer**
- e) **purpose as a writer**

Purpose: **author's intention or reason for writing**

- a) **to explain or inform**
- b) **to create a mood or emotion**
- c) **to tell about a series of events**
- d) **to persuade the reader of something**

Forms of nonfiction:

- a) Report: **factual account of places or events**
- b) Essay: **short nonfiction work about a particular subject**
- c) Biography: **life story of another person, eg. Arthur Ashe Remembered**
- d) Autobiography: **writer tells own life story, eg. White House Diary**  
Memoir: **form of autobiog, covers certain time period or incident in a person's life**

Four major methods used in nonfiction:

- a) Description: **portrait or impression of person, place, or object - uses images**
- b) Narration: **writing that tells a true story, series of events in chrono order, eg. news stories, biogs, autobiogs**
- c) Exposition: **explains, informs, defines, clarifies, discusses ideas, eg. Single Room, Earth View**
- d) Persuasion: **\_convinces reader to do something or to accept writer's POV**

All essay forms answer questions:

- a) Exposition: What is it? How does it work?
- b) Description: What does it look, sound, smell, feel, or taste like?
- c) Narration: What happened?
- d) Persuasion: How should I feel? What should I do?

Elements of/ used in Nonfiction: (other terms to know)

author's argument: point the author is trying to make

cause and effect: linking two related ideas, used in persuasion

chronological order: time order in writing, eg. in how-to instructions

connotation: ideas we associate with the meaning of a word

denotation: dictionary definition of a word, eg. lake = inland body of water

evidence: used to support, prove, clarify an argument, eg. analogy or anecdote

fact vs. truth: something known to exist or to have happened vs. personal "truth"

focus: idea on which writing is centered

hyperbole: exaggeration or overstatement, often used for comic effect, eg. Twain

inference: educated guess, conclusion or judgment from evidence

informational text: writing that provides knowledge to guide & educate, eg. magazine & newspaper articles, instruction manuals, textbooks, web sites, atlases, journals

journals: opinions, comments, & thoughts of people (usually from another time)

literal language: not figurative, uses ordinary meaning of words, eg. jump in pool

objective: unbiased, impartial, based on facts, impersonal, not subjective

opinion: personal attitude, belief, or judgment

propaganda: info or ideas spread to promote or injure a cause, group, nation, etc.

subjective: personal or individual opinion, not objective

tone: writer's attitude toward his subject and audience, formal vs. informal, serious vs. playful, bitter or ironic, eg. O. Henry's sympathetic tone in Gift of Magi